



Louisiana Administrative Code

Title 67

Chapter 73

Day Care Licensing

Class A Child Day Care Center

Licensing Standards & Regulations

Updated June 1, 2012

CLASS “A” DAY CARE CENTER STANDARDS

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Title 67
Chapter 73
Day Care Licensing
Class "A" Regulations for Child Care Centers

§7301. PURPOSE

It is the intent of the legislature to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the children of the state who are in out-of-home care on a regular or consistent basis. Toward that end, it is the purpose of Chapter 14 of Title 46 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 to establish statewide minimum standards for the safety and well-being of children, to ensure maintenance of these standards, and to regulate conditions in these facilities through a program of licensing. It shall be the policy of the state to ensure protection of all individuals under care in child care facilities and placement agencies and to encourage and assist in the improvement of programs. It is the further intent of the legislature that the freedom of religion of all citizens shall be inviolate. This Chapter shall not give the Department of Social Services jurisdiction or authority to regulate, control, supervise, or in any way be involved in the form, manner, or content of any curriculum or instruction of a school or facility sponsored by a church or religious organization so long as the civil and human rights of the clients and residents are not violated.

§7302. AUTHORITY

A. LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

The state of Louisiana, Department of Children and Family Services, is charged with the responsibility for developing and publishing standards for the licensing of child care centers. The licensing authority of the Department of Children and Family Services is established by R.S. 46:1401 et seq., making mandatory the licensing of all child care facilities and child placing agencies, including child care centers. R.S. 46:1403 defines a child day care facility as any place or facility operated by any institution, society, agency, corporation, person or persons, or any other group for the purpose of providing care, supervision, and guidance of seven or more children, not including those related to the caregiver, unaccompanied by parent or guardian, on a regular basis for at least 12 1/2 hours in a continuous 7-day week. Related or relative is defined as the natural or adopted child or grandchild of the caregiver or a child in the legal custody of the caregiver.

In accordance with Act 429 and Act 569 of the 2010 Legislative Session, a recognized religious organization which is qualified as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, which remains open for not more than 24 hours in a continuous 7-day week, and in which no individual child remains for more than 24 hours in one continuous stay shall not be considered a "day care center" for the purposes of this Chapter. In addition, there shall be a moratorium on the enforcement of any rule and regulation by the Department of Children and Family Services upon a child care facility, operated by a religious, nonprofit organization which is exempt from federal income taxes pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), and which was not licensed as

either a Class A or Class B facility on June 1, 2010, and provides childcare for not less than 25 hours and not more than 40 hours in a continuous 7-day week. This moratorium shall terminate and cease to be effective upon July 1, 2011.

B. PENALTIES

1. All child care facilities, including facilities owned or operated by any governmental, profit, nonprofit, private, or church agency shall be licensed.
2. The law provides a penalty for operation of a center without a valid license. The penalty for operation without a valid license is a fine of not less than \$75 nor more than \$250 for each day of operation without a license.

C. INSPECTIONS

1. According to law, it shall be the duty of the Department of Social Services, through its duly authorized agents, to inspect at regular intervals not to exceed one year or as deemed necessary by the department and without previous notice all child care facilities and child-placing agencies subject to the provisions of the Chapter (R.S. 46:1401 et seq.).
2. Whenever the department is advised or has reason to believe that any person, agency or organization is operating a non-exempt child care facility without a license, the department shall make an investigation to ascertain the facts.
3. Whenever the department is advised or has reason to believe that any person, agency or organization is operating in violation of the Child Care Center Class A Minimum Standards, the department shall complete a complaint investigation. All reports of mistreatment of children coming to the attention of the Department of Social Services will be investigated.

D. THE LOUISIANA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

1. The Louisiana Advisory Council on Child Care and Early Education is hereby created in accordance with R.S. 46:1414, as amended by Acts 2009, No. 194, to provide input and guidance to the Department of Social Services on matters pertaining to rules, regulations and standards for licensure of Class A and Class B day care centers as defined in R.S. 46:1403(A)(4).
2. The council shall be composed of 12 voting members, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Social Services and 9 non-voting ex-officio members. The membership shall consist of:
 - a. one parent of a child currently enrolled in a licensed child care facility;
 - b. three owners or directors of licensed child care facilities in Louisiana, and one faith based child care provider;
 - c. two professionals and/or faculty of child development and/or early childhood education programs at community technical colleges or universities located in Louisiana;
 - d. one representative from each of the following advocacy organizations:
 - i. the Louisiana Head Start Association;
 - ii. the Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families;
 - iii. the Louisiana Association for the Education of Young Children;

- iv. the Child Care Association of Louisiana; and
- v. the Louisiana Early Childhood Association of Louisiana; and
- e. nine non-voting ex-officio members consisting of one representative of each of the following offices or agencies:
 - i. the Department of Education Pre-Kindergarten Program;
 - ii. the Department of Education Child and Adult Care Food Program;
 - iii. the Louisiana Office of State Fire Marshal;
 - iv. the Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Sanitarian Services;
 - v. the Louisiana Workforce Commission,
 - vi. the Louisiana State Police Bureau of Criminal Identification; and
 - vii. three representatives from the Department of Social Services.
- 3. Members will be appointed to serve an initial two-year term on the council and may be eligible to be reappointed to serve an additional two-year term.
- 4. A member shall be automatically removed from the advisory council if he/she has two or more unexcused absences during any 12-month period. An absence is excused for purposes of this Section when the cause is one which a reasonably-prudent person would deem to take precedence over fulfillment over a solemn public duty; or, if the absence is known in advance to be probable, if the member notifies the chairperson of his/her expected absence not less than twenty-four hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.
- 5. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the active voting members.
- 6. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any council seat, whether by death, resignation, or automatic removal, such vacant seat shall no longer be counted as an active voting member in determining a quorum until a successor has been appointed by the secretary to fill the unexpired term.
- 7. Officers of the council shall include a chair, vice-chair and secretary.
- 8. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the state's Open Meetings Law. Procedural matters shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.
- 9. Members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement.

E. WAIVERS

The Secretary of the Department of Social Services, in specific instances, may waive compliance with a minimum standard if it is determined that the economic impact is sufficiently great to make compliance impractical, as long as the health and well-being of the staff and/or children are not imperiled. If it is determined that the facility or agency is meeting or exceeding the intent of a standard or regulation, the standard or regulation may be deemed to be met.

F. CONDITIONS FOR OWNERS, OPERATORS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

Any owner, operator, current or prospective employee, or volunteer of a child care facility requesting licensure by the department and/or a child care facility licensed by the Department of Social Services is prohibited from working in a child care facility if the individual discloses, or as the result of information known or received by the Department of Social Services, that individual's name is recorded on the state central registry (SCR) as a perpetrator for a justified (valid) finding of abuse or neglect of a child, unless there is a finding by the Risk Evaluation Panel or a ruling by the Division of Administrative Law that the individual does not pose a risk to children.

1. An individual owning, operating, employed by or volunteering in a child care facility prior to January 1, 2010, licensed by the department shall be required to complete a state central registry disclosure form on or before February 1, 2010. This information shall be reported at the time of application, annually, at any time upon the request of the department, and within three working days of any such individual receiving notice of a justified (valid) determination of child abuse or neglect.
 - The owner, operator, and current employee/volunteer of the licensed child care facility shall complete, sign and date the state central registry disclosure form. The current or prospective employee/volunteer shall submit the disclosure form to the owner or operator of the facility. The owner or operator shall also be required to provide documentation of his or her state central registry disclosure form.
 - Any current employee/volunteer hired before January 1, 2010, who discloses that their name is recorded on the state central registry with a justified (valid) finding of abuse or neglect, or through reasonable suspicion, or as the result of information known or received by the Department of Social Services will have 10 calendar days from completion of the state central registry disclosure form to request a risk assessment evaluation in accordance with LAC 67:I.305 or shall be terminated immediately. As a condition of continued employment the employee/volunteer shall be directly supervised by another paid employee of the facility, who has not disclosed that their name appears with a justified (valid) finding on the state central registry. Under no circumstances may the staff person with the justified finding be left alone and unsupervised with the children pending the disposition of the Risk Evaluation Panel that they do not pose a risk to children. When these conditions are met, the employee/volunteer may be counted in child staff ratio. If the Risk Evaluation Panel finds the individual does pose a risk to children and the individual chooses not to appeal the finding, the employee/volunteer shall be terminated immediately. If the Risk Evaluation Panel finds the individual does pose a risk to children and the individual appeals the finding within the required timeframe, the employee/volunteer shall continue to have direct supervision at all times by another paid employee of the facility who has not disclosed that they have a justified finding on the state central registry until a ruling by the Division of Administrative Law that they do not pose a risk to children. Supervision may end effective with such a ruling from the Division of Administrative Law. If the Division of Administrative Law upholds the Risk Evaluation Panel finding that they do pose a risk to children, they shall be terminated immediately.

2. After January 1, 2010, any prospective owner, operator, or prospective employee/volunteer of a child care facility regulating licensure by the department and/or the child care facility requesting licensure by the department shall be required to complete a state central registry disclosure form. This information shall be reported at the time of application, annually, at any time upon the request of the department, and within three working days of any such individual receiving notice of a justified (valid) determination of child abuse or neglect.
 - The prospective employee/volunteer of a child care facility requesting licensure by the department and/or licensed child care facility shall complete, sign and date the state central registry disclosure form. The prospective employee/volunteer shall submit the disclosure form to the owner or operator of the facility. The owner or operator shall also be required to provide documentation of his or her state central registry disclosure form.
 - If a prospective operator, employee/volunteer discloses that his or her name is currently recorded as a perpetrator on the state central registry, the child care facility representative/prospective employer shall inform the applicant they will not be considered for employment or volunteer duties at the time due to the state central registry disclosure and the child care facility representative/prospective employer will provide the prospective employee/volunteer with the request for risk panel evaluation form.
3. SCR disclosure forms, documentation of any disposition of the Risk Evaluation Panel and, when applicable, the Division of Administrative Law ruling shall be maintained in accordance with current department licensing requirements and be available for review by Child Care Licensing and Regulatory personnel during the facility's hours of operation. They shall be kept on file a minimum of one year from termination of the employee or volunteer from the center.
4. Any information received or knowledge acquired that a current or prospective owner, operator, volunteer, employee or prospective employee or volunteer has falsified a state central registry disclosure form stating that they are not currently recorded as a perpetrator with a justified (valid) determination of abuse or neglect shall be reported in writing to a Child Care Licensing manager at the Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support, Child Care Licensing and Regulatory Section as soon as possible, but no later than the close of business on the next working day.
5. Any state central registry disclosure form, Risk Evaluation Panel finding and Division of Administrative Law ruling that is maintained in a child care facility licensing file shall be confidential and subject to the confidentiality provisions of R.S. 46:56(F) pertaining to the investigations of abuse and neglect.
6. Violations of any of the provisions of this Section shall result in licensing enforcement actions up to and including revocation of the license to operate.

§7303. PROCEDURES

A. APPLICATION

1. Anyone applying for a license after the effective date of these standards shall meet all of the requirements herein.
2. Before beginning operation, it is mandatory to obtain a license from the Department of Social Services, Bureau of Licensing. To do so, the following steps should be followed.
 - a. Prior to purchasing, leasing, etc., carefully check all local zoning and building ordinances in the area where the facility is to be located. Standards from Office of Public Health, Sanitarian Services; Office of the State Fire Marshal, Code Enforcement and Building Safety; and city fire department (if applicable) should be obtained.
 - b. After securing building, obtain an application form issued by:
Department of Social Services
Bureau of Licensing
P.O. Box 3078
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3078
Phone: (225) 922-0015
Fax: (225) 922-0014
Web address: www.dss.state.la.us/offos/html/licensing.html
 - c. The completed application shall indicate Class "A" license. Anyone applying for State or Federal funding shall apply for Class "A" license. Licensure fees are required to be paid by all providers. A Class "A" license may not be changed to a Class "B" license if revocation procedures are pending.
 - d. After the center's location has been established, complete and return the application form. It is necessary to contact the following offices prior to building or renovating a center:
 - i. Office of Public Health, Sanitarian Services;
 - ii. Office of the State Fire Marshal, Code Enforcement and Building Safety;
 - iii. office of city fire department (if applicable);
 - iv. zoning department (if applicable); and
 - v. city or parish building permit office.
 - e. After the application has been received by the Bureau of Licensing, the bureau will request the Office of State Fire Marshal, office of city fire department (if applicable), Office of Public Health and any known required local agencies to make an inspection of the location, as per their standards. However, it is the applicant's responsibility to obtain these inspections and approvals.
 - f. A licensing specialist will visit the center to conduct a licensing survey.
 - g. A license will be issued on an initial application when the following items have been met and written verification is received by the Bureau of Licensing:
 - i. state fire approval;

- ii. city fire approval (if applicable);
 - iii. health approval;
 - iv. zoning approval (if applicable);
 - v. full licensure fee paid;
 - vi. director meets qualifications;
 - vii. director designee meets qualifications (if applicable);
 - viii. three current, positive, signed references on director;
 - ix. three current, positive, signed references on director designee (if applicable);
 - x. licensure survey verifying compliance with all minimum standards;
 - xi. documentation of a satisfactory criminal record clearance for all staff including all owners and operators; and
 - xii. documentation of completed state central registry disclosure forms noting no justified (valid) finding of abuse and/or neglect for all staff or documentation from the Risk Assessment Panel or Division of Administrative Law noting that the individual does not pose a risk to children.
3. When a center changes location, it is considered a new operation and a new application and fee for licensure shall be submitted. All items listed in §7303.A.2.g shall be submitted, except references and director/director designee qualifications if the director/director designee remains the same.
4. When a center changes ownership, the following information must be submitted prior to the sale or day of the sale in order for a license to be issued:
- a. a new application;
 - b. full licensure fee;
 - c. current health and state fire approval;
 - d. city fire approval (if applicable);
 - e. documentation of director qualifications as listed in §7310.A and B;
 - f. letter from previous owner noting sale of child care business;
 - g. documentation of director designee qualifications as listed in §7310.A and B (if applicable);
 - h. three current, positive signed references on the director;
 - i. three current, positive, signed references on director designee (if applicable);
 - j. copy of bill of sale;
 - k. documentation of a satisfactory criminal record clearance for all owners and operators and all staff not employed by the previous owner; and
 - l. documentation of completed state central registry disclosure forms noting no justified (valid) finding of abuse and/or neglect for all staff or documentation

from the Risk Assessment Panel or Division of Administrative Law noting that the individual does not pose a risk to children.

NOTE: If the above information is not received prior to the sale or day of the sale, the new owner must not operate until a license is issued. When the application is received, it will be treated as an initial application rather than a change of ownership.

5. When a center changes class type, the following information shall be submitted to the bureau prior to the issuance of the new license:
 - a. written request from the provider;
 - b. full licensure fee;
 - c. documentation of commercial liability insurance in accordance with §7305.B and §7331.J; and
 - d. documentation of director/director designee qualifications as listed in §7310.A and B;
 - e. verification of substantial compliance with current child care regulations.
6. A license shall be valid only for the address on the application to a particular owner and is not transferable to another person or location or subject to sale. Two licenses shall not be issued simultaneously for the same physical address.
7. When a business is sold, discontinued, the operation has moved to a new location, or the license has been revoked, the current license immediately becomes null and void.
8. All new construction or renovation of a center requires approval from the agencies listed in §7303.A.2.d and the Bureau of Licensing prior to occupying the new space.
9. The bureau is authorized to determine the period during which the license shall be effective. A license is valid for the period for which it is issued unless it is revoked due to provider's failure to maintain compliance with minimum standards.

B. FEES

1. All fees shall be paid by certified check or money order only and are non-refundable.
2. An application fee of \$25 shall be submitted with all initial applications. This fee will be applied toward the total licensure fee which is due prior to licensure of the provider. This fee is to be paid by all initial and change of location providers. The full licensure fee shall be paid on all change of ownership applications. The full licensure fee shall be paid for all class changes.
3. Annual licensure fees are required prior to renewal of the license. License fee schedules (based on capacity) are listed below.

License Fee Schedules	
Capacity	Fee
15 or fewer	\$25
16-50	\$100
51-100	\$175
101 or more	\$250

4. Other licensure fees:

- a. a replacement fee of \$25 for any provider replacing a license when changes to the license are requested, e.g., change in capacity, name change, age range change, transportation change. (There is no processing charge when the request coincides with regular renewal of license.):
 - i. capacity increase is effective when the following is received and approved by the bureau: written, signed request; fee; state fire approval; city fire approval (if applicable); state health approval; and measurement of the additional space by the bureau;
 - ii. transportation addition is effective when the following is received and approved by the bureau: written, signed request; fee; copy of appropriate driver's license(s); and insurance;
 - iii. name change, age range change, and addition of nighttime care is effective when the request and fee are received and approved;
 - iv. Change in director/director designee does not require a fee; however, documentation of qualifications and three reference letters are needed in order to process the request;
- b. a processing fee of \$5 for issuing a duplicate license with no changes.

C. RELICENSING

1. The annual relicensing survey is similar to the original licensing survey. Documentation of the previous 12 months' activity shall be available for review. The director will have an opportunity to review the survey deficiencies (if any).
2. A license is issued for a period of up to one year based upon provider's compliance with minimum standards. Before expiration of the license, re-inspections by the Office of Public Health, Sanitarian Services; Office of the State Fire Marshal, Code Enforcement and Building Safety; city fire (if applicable) and the Bureau of Licensing shall be required.
3. If the survey reveals that the provider is not meeting minimum requirements, a decision may be made by the department for adverse action.
4. The bureau shall be notified prior to making changes which may have an effect upon the license, e.g., age range of children served, usage of indoor and outdoor space, director, hours/months/days of operation, transportation, etc.

D. DENIAL, REVOCATION OR NON-RENEWAL OF LICENSE.

An application for a license may be denied, or a license may be revoked, or renewal denied, for any of the following reasons:

1. violation of any provision of R.S. 46:1401 et seq., or failure to meet any of the minimum standards, rules, regulations or orders promulgated by the Department of Social Services;
2. cruelty or indifference to the welfare of the children;
3. conviction of or a plea of guilty or nolo contender of a felony, or any offense of a violent or sexual nature, or any offense involving a juvenile victim:
 - a. or, if the applicant is a firm or corporation, any of its board members or officers;
 - b. or, the person designated to manage or supervise the center;
4. hiring or continued employment of any individual (paid or non-paid staff) convicted of a felony or a plea of guilty or nolo contender of a felony or any offense of a violent or sexual nature or any offense involving a juvenile victim;
5. if the owner or director of the center is not reputable;
6. if the owner, director or a member of the staff is temperamentally or otherwise unsuited for the care of the children in the center;
7. history of noncompliance;
8. failure of the owner of the center to hire a qualified director;
9. disapproval from any agency whose approval is required for licensure;
10. non-payment of licensure fee and/or failure to submit application for renewal prior to the expiration of the current license;
11. any validated instance of corporal punishment, physical punishment, cruel, severe, or unusual punishment, physical or sexual abuse and/or neglect if the owner is responsible or if the employee who is responsible remains in the employment of the provider;
12. the center is closed and there are no plans for immediate re-opening and no means of verifying compliance with minimum standards for licensure;
13. any act of fraud such as falsifying or altering documents required for licensure;
14. provider refuses to allow the bureau to perform mandated duties, i.e., denying entrance to the center, lack of cooperation for completion of duties, etc.;
15. presence or use of any recalled product by the provider that is listed in the newsletters issued by the Office of the Attorney General;
16. failure to attend any mandatory training session offered by the bureau;
17. presence of an individual with a justified (valid) finding of child/abuse neglect not being directly supervised by another paid employee of the facility, who has not disclosed that their name appears with a justified (valid) finding on the state central registry until a determination by the Risk Evaluation Panel or Division of Administrative Law that the individual does not pose a risk to children;

18. presence of an individual on the child care premises with a ruling by the Risk Evaluation Panel that the individual poses a risk to children and the individual has not requested an appeal hearing by the Division of Administrative Law within the required time frame;
19. presence of an individual on the child care premises with a ruling by the Division of Administrative Law that the individual poses a risk to children; or
20. having knowledge that a convicted sex offender is physically present within 1000 feet of the child care facility and failing to notify law enforcement and licensing management staff immediately upon receipt of such knowledge.

E. APPEAL PROCEDURE

If the license is refused, revoked or denied because the provider does not ensure the compliance with the minimum requirements for licensure, the procedure is as follows.

1. The Department of Social Services, Bureau of Licensing, shall advise the director by certified letter of the reasons for refusal, revocation, or denial and the right of appeal.
2. A provider may appeal the revocation or non-renewal of a license by submitting a written request to appeal the decision along with a copy of the notice within 15 days of receipt of the notice of revocation or non-renewal. In the case of a denial of an initial application for a license, a provider may appeal the denial by submitting a written request to appeal the decision within 30 days of receipt of the notice of denial of application. A request for appeal should include the specific reasons the decision is believed to be erroneous and/or the specific reasons the decision is believed to be incorrect, and mailed to: Department of Social Services, Bureau of Appeals, P.O. Box 2944, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9118.
3. The Bureau of Appeals shall set a hearing within 30 days after receipt of such a request. An appeals hearing officer shall conduct the hearing. Within 90 days after the date the appeal is filed, the hearing officer shall advise the appellant by certified letter of the decision, either affirming or reversing the original decision. If the appeal is denied, the provider shall terminate operation of the center immediately.
4. If the provider continues to operate without a license, the Department of Social Services may file suit in the district court in the parish in which the center is located for injunctive relief.

F. REQUIRED NOTIFICATION

Within 24 hours or the next workday, the director shall notify the bureau of the following reportable incidents. A verbal report is to be followed by a written report:

1. any death of a child while in the care of the provider;
2. any illness or injury requiring hospitalization or professional medical attention other than first aid of a child while in the care of the provider;
3. any fire;
4. any structural disaster;
5. any emergency situation that requires temporarily relocating children;

6. any unusual situation which affects the care of a child or children, e.g., child left unsupervised in the center, on the van, in play yard, on field trip, extended loss of power, water service, gas, etc.; or
7. any child leaving the center unsupervised or with an unauthorized person.

G. DISQUALIFICATION FROM APPLICATION

1. Definitions, as used in this Section:

Affiliate—

- i. with respect to a partnership, each partner thereof;
- ii. with respect to a corporation, each officer, director and stockholder thereof;
- iii. with respect to a natural person:
 - (a). that person and any individual related by blood, marriage, or adoption within the third degree of kinship to that person;
 - (b). any partnership, together with any or all its partners, in which that person is a partner; and
 - (c). any corporation in which that person an officer, director or stockholder, or holds, directly or indirectly, a controlling interest;
- iv. with respect to any of the above, any mandatory, agent, or representative or any other person, natural or juridical acting at the direction of or on behalf of the licensee or applicant; or
- v. director of any such day care center.

Department—the Department of Social Services.

Disqualification Period—the prescriptive period during which the department shall not accept an application from a provider. Any unlicensed operation during the disqualification period shall interrupt running of prescription until the department has verified that the unlicensed operation has ceased.

Effective Date—of a revocation, denial, or non-renewal of a license shall be the last day for applying to appeal the action, if the action is not appealed.

Facility—any place, program, facility or agency operated or required by law to operate under a license, including facilities owned or operated by any governmental, profit, nonprofit, private, or church agency.

License—

- i. any license issued by the department to operate any child care facility or child-placing agency as defined in R.S. 46:1403;
- ii. any license issued by the department to operate any adult residential care facility as defined in R.S. 40:2153; or
- iii. any license issued by the department to operate any transitional youth residence as defined in R.S. 46:1453.

Provider—all owners or operators of a facility, including the director of such facility. If the owner is a corporate entity, the owners are the officers, directors, and shareholders of the facility.

Unlicensed Operation—operation of any child care facility or child-placing agency, adult residential care facility, or transitional youth residence, at any location, without a valid, current license issued by the department.

2. Disqualification of Facility and Provider

- a. If a facility's license is revoked or not renewed due to failure to comply with state statutes and licensing rules, the department shall not accept a subsequent application from the provider for that facility or any new facility for a minimum period of two years after the effective date of revocation or non-renewal or a minimum period of two years after all appeal rights have been exhausted, whichever is later (the disqualification period). Any pending application by the same provider shall be treated as an application for a new facility for purposes of this section and shall be denied and subject to the disqualification period. Any subsequent application for a license shall be reviewed by the secretary or their designee prior to a decision being made to grant a license. The department reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, whether to issue any subsequent license.
- b. Any voluntary surrender of a license by a facility facing the possibility of adverse action against its license (revocation or non-renewal) shall be deemed to be a revocation for purposes of this rule, and shall trigger the same disqualification period as if the license had actually been revoked.
- c. In addition, if the applicant has had a substantial history of non-compliance, including but not limited to revocation of a previous license, operation without a license, or denial of one or more previous applications for licensure, the department may refuse to accept a subsequent application from that applicant for a minimum period of two years after the effective date of denial.
- d. With respect to an application in connection with the revoked, denied, or not renewed facility, the disqualification period provided in this Section shall include any affiliate of the provider.

H. POSTING OF NOTICES OF REVOCATION

The notice of revocation of the license shall be prominently posted.

- The Department of Social Services shall prominently post a notice of revocation action at each public entrance of the child care facility within one business day of such action. This notice must remain visible to the parents and guardians of the children who attend the child care facility.
- It shall be a violation of these rules for a provider to permit the obliteration or removal of a notice of revocation that has been posted by the department. The provider shall ensure that the notice continues to be visible to parents, guardians, and others throughout the pendency of any appeals of the revocation.
- The provider shall notify child care licensing in writing immediately if the notice is removed.
- Failure to maintain the posted notice of revocation required under these rules shall be grounds for denial, revocation or non-renewal of any future license.

§7304. DEFINITIONS

Anniversary—center's licensure year, determined by the month in which the initial license was issued to the provider/center and in which the license is eligible for renewal each year.

Bureau—the Bureau of Licensing of the Department of Social Services.

Capacity—the number of children the provider is licensed to care for at any given time based on usable indoor and outdoor square footage as determined by the bureau.

Center—a child care facility as defined in §7302.A.1.

Center Staff—all full or part-time paid or non-paid staff who perform routine services for the child care center and have direct or indirect contact with children at the center. Center staff includes the director, child care staff, and any other employees of the center such as the cook, housekeeper, driver, substitutes, and foster grandparents excluding extra-curricular personnel.

Change of Location—change of physical address of facility.

Change of Ownership—transfer of ownership to someone other than the owner listed on the initial application. Ownership of the center business, not the building, determines the owner. Sale of a corporation also constitutes a change of ownership. Leasing of a child care business is not considered a change of ownership, but an initial application.

Child Care Staff—all full or part-time paid or non-paid staff who perform routine services for the child care center and have direct or indirect contact with children at the center. Staff includes the director, child care staff, and any other employees of the center such as the cook, housekeeper, driver, substitutes, and foster grandparents excluding extra-curricular personnel.

Clock Hour—involvement or participation in a learning situation for 60 minutes.

Comparable Setting—experience with pre-K, kindergarten or first grade, or the operator of a registered family day home.

Department—the Department of Social Services in Louisiana.

Direct Supervision—visual contact at all times.

Director—refers to executive director, center director, and/or director designee.

Executive Director—the owner or administrator. If on-site and responsible for the management, administration and supervision of the center, the executive director is also the center director. If not on-site or not functioning as center director, the executive director maintains responsibility for the management, administration and supervision of the center(s) through a center director or director designee.

Center Director—the on-site staff who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the center as recorded with the Bureau of Licensing. For the purpose of these regulations the term director means center director or director designee, if applicable.

Director Designee—the on-site individual appointed by the director when the director is not an on-site employee at the licensed location. This individual shall meet director qualifications.

Discipline—the ongoing positive process of helping children develop inner control so that they can manage their own behavior in an appropriate and acceptable manner by using corrective action to change the inappropriate behavior.

Documentation—written evidence or proof, signed and dated by parties involved (director, parents, staff, etc.), on site and available for review.

Employee—all full or part-time paid center staff who perform services for the child care center and have direct or indirect contact with children at the center.

Existing Center—a provider with a valid license at a particular location prior to the effective date of these standards.

Extra-Curricular Personnel/Therapeutic Professionals—individuals who are not employees of the center, but who come to the center to provide therapy, services, or enrichment activities for an individual child or group of children. Examples: computer instructor, dance instructor, librarian, tumble bus personnel, therapeutic personnel (occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech therapist), nutritionist, early interventionist, nurse.

Group—the number of children assigned to a caregiver or team of caregivers occupying an individual classroom or well-defined space within a larger room on a consistent or daily basis.

Medication—all internal and external drugs, whether over-the-counter or prescribed.

Montessori School—a facility accredited as a Montessori School by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education under R.S. 17:3401 et seq.

Nighttime Care—care provided after 9 p.m. and in which no individual child remains for more than 24 hours in one continuous stay.

Non-Vehicular Excursion—the children are not in the licensed area (play yard or center) and not in a vehicle.

Owner or Provider—a public or private organization or individual who delivers child care services for children.

Posted—prominently displayed in a conspicuous location in an area accessible to and regularly used by parents.

Reasonable Suspicion—Child Care Licensing and Regulatory personnel has or acquires information containing specific and articulable facts indicating that an owner, operator, current or potential employee or volunteer has been investigated and determined to be the perpetrator of abuse or neglect against a minor in an investigation with a justified (valid) finding currently recorded on the state central registry.

Shall or Must—mandatory.

Should—urged, advised or may.

Staff-in-Charge—the on-site staff appointed by the director as responsible for supervising the operation of the center during the temporary absence of the director.

State Central Registry—repository that identifies any individual reported to have a justified (valid) finding of abuse or neglect of a child or children by the Office of Community Services.

Student Trainee—an individual who observes in the center as a course requirement, is never left alone with children, nor counted in the child/staff ratio.

Temporary Absence—absence for errands, conferences, etc.

Transportation—arranging or providing transportation of children for any reason including field trips and transportation by contract.

Visitor—anyone who enters the facility other than center staff, therapeutic professionals, extracurricular personnel, and in the case of a church or school, any other routine employees such as a pastor, principal, teacher, etc.

Volunteer—full or part-time non-paid center staff who perform services for the child care center and have direct or indirect contact with children at the center.

Water Activity—a water-related activity in which children, under adult supervision, are in, on, near, or immersed in a body of water such as swimming pools, wading pools, water parks, lakes, rivers or beaches, etc.

§7305. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. A Louisiana child care license with current information and current expiration date shall be on display in an area accessible to and regularly used by parents and visitors, except for church affiliated centers (R.S. 46:1408.D) that choose to keep the license on file and available upon request.
- B. The provider shall maintain in force at all times current commercial liability insurance for the operation of a center to ensure medical coverage for children in the event of accident or injury. The provider is responsible for payment of medical expenses of a child injured while in the provider's care. Documentation shall consist of the insurance policy or current binder that includes the name of the child care facility, physical address of the facility, name of the insurance company, policy number, period of coverage and explanation of the coverage.
- C. Parents shall not be required to waive the provider's responsibility.
- D. The provider shall have documentation of yearly sanitation inspection and current approval from the Office of Public Health, Sanitarian Services. If food is catered or transported, approval is needed from the health department.
- E. The provider shall have documentation of yearly safety inspection and current approval from the Office of State Fire Marshal.
- F. The provider shall have documentation of yearly safety inspection and current approval from the city fire department (if applicable).
- G. The provider shall have certificate of occupancy (zoning), if applicable.
- H. A daily attendance record for children, completed by the parent or center staff, including the time of arrival and departure of each child and the name of the person to whom the child was released, shall be maintained. This record shall accurately reflect the children on the child care premises at any given time. If the record is completed by center staff, that individual shall write the first and last name of the person to whom the child was released and sign his/her own name. Children who leave and return to the center during the day shall be signed in/out. A computerized sign in/out procedure is acceptable if the record accurately reflects the time of arrival and departure as well as the name of the person to whom the child was released.

- I. A daily attendance record for staff, including the director/owner, to include the time of arrival and departure shall be maintained. Staff shall document in/out when not on the child care premises. This record shall accurately reflect persons on the child care premises at any given time.
- J. The provider shall have an individual immediately available in case of emergency. The name and telephone number of the emergency person shall be posted near the telephone.
- K. Any visitor to the center shall be accompanied by a staff person at all times.
- L. LICENSING SURVEYS; NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Act 351 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session, providers shall prominently post information advising parents or guardians that findings from licensing surveys are available online which includes the current web address, and that findings from licensing surveys are also available upon written request to the Department of Social Services.

M. INFLUENZA NOTICE TO PARENTS

In accordance with Act 343 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session, providers shall make available to each child's parent or legal guardian information relative to the risks associated with influenza and the availability, effectiveness, known contraindications and possible side effects of the influenza immunization. This information shall include the causes and symptoms of influenza, the means by which influenza is spread, the places a parent or legal guardian may obtain additional information and where a child may be immunized against influenza. The information shall be updated annually if new information on the disease is available. The information shall be provided annually to each licensed facility by the Department of Social Services and shall be made available to parents or legal guardians prior to November 1 of each year.

N. CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN A CHILD-RELATED BUSINESS

1. Any owner/owners of a child day care facility shall provide documentation of a satisfactory criminal record check, as required by R.S. 46:51.2 and R.S. 15:587.1. A criminal background check shall be required of each owner of a facility submitting a new application, change of ownership application, change of location application, and/or application for renewal for a child day care license. No person with a criminal conviction of a felony, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere of a felony, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any offense included in R.S. 15:587.1, R.S. 14:2, R.S. 15:541 or any offense involving a juvenile victim, shall directly or indirectly own, operate or participate in the governance of a child care facility.
2. New members/owners added to a partnership, church, corporation, limited liability corporation or governmental entity which does not constitute a change of ownership shall provide documentation of a satisfactory criminal record check as required by R.S. 46:51.2 and R.S. 15:587.1. No member/owner with a criminal conviction of conviction of a felony, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere of a felony, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any offense included in R.S. 15:587.1, R.S. 14:2, R.S. 15:541 or any offense involving a juvenile victim, shall directly or indirectly own, operate or participate in the governance of a child care facility.
3. Every owner shall submit the criminal background check showing that he or she has not been convicted of any offense enumerated in R.S. 15:587.1 or a felony, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any offense included in R.S. 15:587.1, R.S.

14:2, R.S. 15:541 or any offense involving a juvenile victim, together with the initial application or, in the case of an existing center, with the application for renewal of the license. If the criminal background check shows that any owner has been convicted of any enumerated offense under R.S. 15:587.1 or a felony, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere of a felony, or any offense involving a juvenile victim, the owner or director shall submit the information to the licensing section management staff within 24 hours or no later than the next business day, whichever is sooner, upon receipt of the result.

4. The physical presence of a sex offender in, on, or within 1,000 feet of a child day care facility is prohibited. Providers and child care staff shall not permit an individual convicted of a sex offense, as defined in R.S. 15:541, physical access to a child day care facility, as defined in R.S. 46:1403.
5. The owner or director of a child day care facility shall be required to call and notify law enforcement agencies and the licensing section management staff if a sex offender is on the premises of the child day care facility or within 1,000 feet of the child day care facility. The licensing office shall be contacted immediately. The verbal report shall be followed by a written report.

§7306. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATED TO CHILDREN

- A. Prior to admission, the director, in consultation with the parent, shall determine that the individual needs of each child can adequately be met by the center's program and facilities. Provider shall have a written description of admission policies and criteria which expresses the needs, problems, situations or patterns best addressed by its program.
- B. A schedule of the day's plan of activities, allowing for flexibility and change, shall be posted. The program of activities shall be age-appropriate and shall be adhered to with reasonable closeness, but shall accommodate and have due regard for individual needs and differences among the children. The program shall provide time and materials for both vigorous and quiet activities for children to share or to be alone, indoor and outdoor play, and rest. Regular time shall be allowed for routines such as washing, lunch, rest, snacks and putting away toys. Active and quiet periods shall be alternated so as to guard against over-stimulation of the child.
- C. Programs/movies with violent or adult content (including soap operas) shall not be permitted in the presence of children.
- D. Children 5 years and younger shall have a daily rest period of at least one hour. Providers that serve children in half-day programs are not required to schedule napping periods for these children.
- E. While awake, children shall not remain in a crib/baby bed, swing, highchair, carrier, playpen, etc., for more than 30 consecutive minutes.
- F. DISCIPLINE

The provider shall establish a policy in regard to methods of discipline. Any form of punishment that violates the spirit of this standard of discipline, even though it may not be specifically mentioned as forbidden, is prohibited. This written posted policy shall clearly state all types of positive discipline that are used and that the following methods of discipline are prohibited.

- No child shall be subject to physical punishment, corporal punishment, verbal abuse or threats.
- Cruel, severe, unusual, or unnecessary punishment shall not be inflicted upon children.
- Derogatory remarks shall not be made in the presence of children about family members of children in care or about the children themselves.
- No child or group of children shall be allowed to discipline another child.
- When a child is removed from the group for disciplinary reasons, he shall never be out of sight of a staff member.
- No child shall be deprived of meals or snacks or any part thereof for disciplinary reasons.

G. ABUSE AND NEGLECT

As mandated reporters, all center staff shall report any suspected abuse and/or neglect of a child in accordance with R.S. 14:403 to the local child protection agency. This written policy as well as the local child protection agency's telephone number shall be posted.

H. COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Parents shall be advised of the licensing authority of the bureau along with the current telephone number and address. Parents shall also be advised that they may call or write the bureau should they have significant, unresolved licensing complaints. This written policy as well as the current telephone number and address of the bureau shall be posted.

I. OPEN DOOR POLICY

Parents shall be informed that they are welcome to visit the center anytime during regular hours of operation as long as their child is enrolled. This written policy shall be posted.

J. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Discrimination by child care providers on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, handicapping condition, ancestry, or whether the child is being breast-fed is prohibited. This written policy shall be posted.

§7307. CHILDREN'S RECORDS

A. A record shall be maintained on each child to include:

1. child's information form (mastercard) listing the child's name, birth date, sex, date of admission, name and phone number of child's physician and dentist, dietary restrictions, and allergies; signed and dated by the parent;
2. parental authorization to secure emergency medical treatment;
3. signed agreements between the provider and the parent for each child giving permission to release the child to a third party listed by the parent including any other child care facilities or transportation services. A child shall never be released to anyone unless authorized in writing by the parent;

4. signed agreements between the provider and the parent to transport the child. Daily trip authorization shall include name of child, type of service (i.e., to and from home, to and from school), parent's signature and date.
- B. The provider shall maintain the confidentiality and security of all children's records. Employees of the center shall not disclose or knowingly permit the disclosure of any information concerning the child or his/her family, directly or indirectly, to any unauthorized person.
- C. The provider shall obtain written, informed consent from the parent prior to releasing any information, recordings and/or photographs from which the child might be identified, except for authorized state and federal agencies.
- D. The provider utilizing any type of recordings or taping of children including but not limited to digital recordings, videotaping, audio recordings, web cam, etc., shall obtain documentation signed and dated by the parent indicating their awareness of such recordings.

§7308. RETENTION OF RECORDS

- A. Documentation of the previous 12 months' activity shall be available for review. Records shall be accessible during the hours the facility is open and operating.
- B. For licensing purposes, children's information shall be kept on file a minimum of one year from date of discharge from the center.
- C. For licensing purposes, personnel records shall be kept on file a minimum of one year from termination of employment from the center.

§7309. REQUIRED STAFF

- A. Each center shall have a qualified director who is an on-site full-time employee at the licensed location and is responsible for planning, managing, and controlling the center's daily activities, as well as responding to parental concerns and ensuring that minimum licensing requirements are met. When the director is not an on-site full-time employee at the licensed location, there shall be a qualified director designee who is an on-site full-time employee responsible for planning, managing, and controlling the center's daily activities, as well as responding to parental concerns and ensuring that minimum licensing requirements are met.
- B. When the director or director designee is not on the premises due to a temporary absence, there shall be an individual appointed as staff-in-charge who is at least 21 years of age. This staff shall be given the authority to respond to emergencies, inspections/inspectors, parental concerns, and have access to all required information.
- C. If the number of children in care exceeds 42, the director/director designee's duties shall consist only of performing administrative functions.
- D. There shall be regularly employed staff who are capable of fulfilling job duties of the position to which they are assigned.
- E. Adequate provisions for cooking and housekeeping duties shall be provided. These duties shall not interfere with required supervision of children or required child/staff ratios.

- F. There shall be provisions for substitute staff who are qualified to fulfill duties of the position to which they are assigned.
- G. Child care staff shall be age 18 years or older. The provider may, however, include in the staff-child ratio, a person 16 or 17 years old who works under the direct supervision of a qualified adult staff. No one under age 16 shall be used as child care staff.

§7310. DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

- A. The director/director designee shall be at least 21 years of age.
- B. The director/director designee shall have documentation of at least one of the following upon date of hire as director or director designee:
1. a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least 12 credit hours of child development or early childhood education and one year of experience in a licensed child care center or comparable setting, subject to approval by the bureau;
 2. an Associate of Arts degree in child development or a closely related area, and one year of experience in a licensed child care center, or comparable setting, subject to approval by the bureau;
 3. a National Administrator Credential as awarded by the National Child Care Association, and one year experience in a licensed child care center, or comparable setting, subject to approval by the bureau;
 4. a Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) and one year of experience in a licensed child care center, or comparable setting, subject to approval by the bureau;
 5. diploma from a post secondary technical early childhood education training program approved by the Board of Regents or correspondence course approved by the bureau and one year of experience in a licensed child care center, or comparable setting, subject to approval by the bureau;
 6. three years of experience as a director or staff in a licensed child care center, or comparable setting, subject to approval by the bureau; plus six credit hours in child care, child development, or early childhood education or 90 "clock hours" of training approved by the bureau. Up to three credit hours or 45 clock hours may be in management/administration education.

§7311. PERSONNEL RECORDS

- A. A record for each paid and non-paid staff person, including substitutes and foster grandparents shall be on file at the center. Personnel record shall include:
1. an application and/or a staff information form with the following:
 - name;
 - date of birth;
 - address and telephone number;
 - previous training/work experience;

- educational background; and
 - employee's starting and termination date;
2. documentation of three current, positive reference checks or telephone notes signed and dated. These references shall be obtained from persons not related to the employee;
 3. written job descriptions for every position at the center;
 4. a written statement of good health signed by a physician or designee. Health statement dated within three months prior to offer of employment or within one month after date of employment is acceptable. A health statement is required every three years. Originals shall be presented upon request;
 5. documentation of a satisfactory criminal record check from Louisiana State Police as required by R.S. 46:51.2. This check shall be obtained prior to the individual being present in the child care facility. No person who has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any offense included in R.S. 15:587.1, R.S. 14:2, R.S. 15:541 or any offense involving a juvenile victim, shall be eligible to own, operate, and/or be present in any capacity in any licensed child care facility. For any owner or operator, a clear criminal background check in accordance with R.S. 46:51.2 shall be obtained prior to the issuance of a license or approval of a change of ownership. In addition, neither an owner, nor a director, nor a director designee shall have a conviction of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any crime in which an act of fraud or intent to defraud is an element of the offense.
 - An individual who applies for a position of supervisory or disciplinary authority over children in a child care facility may provide a certified copy of their criminal background check obtained from the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information Section of the Louisiana State Police. If an individual provides a certified copy of their criminal background check obtained from the Louisiana State Police to the provider, this criminal background check shall be accepted by the department for a period of one year from the date of issuance of the certified copy. A photocopy of the certified copy shall be kept on file at the facility in which the individual is currently employed. However, prior to the one year date of issuance of the certified criminal background check, the provider shall request and obtain a satisfactory criminal check from Louisiana State Police in order for the individual to continue employment at the center. If the clearance is not obtained by the provider prior to the one year date of issuance of the certified criminal background check, the staff person is no longer allowed on the child care premises until a clearance is received.
- B. The following information shall be kept on file for independent contractors including therapeutic professionals and extracurricular personnel, e.g. computer instructors, dance instructors, librarians, tumble bus personnel, speech therapists, licensed health care professionals, state-certified teachers employed through a local school board, art instructors, and other outside contractors:
1. documentation of a satisfactory criminal record check from Louisiana State Police as required by R.S. 46:51.2. This check shall be obtained prior to the individual being present in the child care facility. No person who has been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any offense included in R.S. 15:587.1, R.S. 14:2, R.S. 15:541 or any offense involving a juvenile victim, shall be present in any capacity in any child care facility;

- independent contractors, therapeutic professionals, and/or extracurricular personnel may provide a certified copy of their criminal background check obtained from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information Section of the Louisiana State Police to the provider prior to being present and working with a child or children at the facility. If an individual provides a certified copy of their criminal background check obtained from the Louisiana State Police to the provider, this criminal background check shall be accepted by the department for a period of one year from the date of issuance of the certified copy. A photocopy of the certified copy shall be kept on file at the facility. Prior to the one year date of issuance of the certified copy, the individual shall request and obtain a current certified copy of their criminal background check obtained from the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information Section of the Louisiana State Police in order to continue providing services to a child or children at the child care facility. If the clearance is not obtained by the provider prior to the one year date of issuance of the certified criminal background check, the individual shall no longer be allowed on the child care premises until a clearance is received. This criminal background check shall be accepted by the department for a period of one year from the date of issuance of the certified copy. A photocopy of the certified copy shall be kept on file at the facility;
2. documentation of their presence at the facility to include:
 - name;
 - date of visit;
 - arrival and departure times; and
 - reason in center.
- C. The following information shall be kept on file at the center for each student trainee:
1. an application and/or a staff information form with the following:
 - name;
 - date of birth; and
 - address and telephone number;
 2. job descriptions to include job duties to be performed and name of supervisor;
 3. documentation of their presence at the facility to include:
 - name;
 - date of visit;
 - arrival and departure times; and
 - reason in center.

§7312. STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

A. ORIENTATION TRAINING

Within one week of employment and prior to having sole responsibility for a group of children, each staff member, including substitutes and foster grandparents, shall receive orientation training to include the following topics:

- center policies and practices including health and safety procedures;
- emergency and evacuation plan;
- supervision of children;
- discipline policy;
- job description;
- individual needs of the children enrolled;
- detecting and reporting child abuse and neglect;
- current Child Care Class "A" Minimum Licensing Standards; and
- confidentiality of information regarding children and their families.

This training shall be followed by four days of supervised work with children. Documentation shall consist of a statement/checklist in the staff record signed and dated by the staff person and director, attesting to having received such orientation training, and the dates of the supervised work with children.

B. QUARTERLY TRAINING

The director shall conduct, at a minimum, one staff training session/meeting every three months. Documentation shall consist of the date of the training session, training topics, and signatures (not initials) of all staff in attendance.

C. ANNUAL REVIEW

All staff, including substitutes and foster grandparents, shall have a signed and dated checklist/statement that the following topics are annually reviewed:

- center policies and practices including health and safety procedures;
- emergency and evacuation plan;
- supervision of children;
- discipline policy;
- job description;
- individual needs of the children enrolled;
- detecting and reporting child abuse and neglect;
- current Child Day Care Class "A" Minimum Standards;
- confidentiality of information regarding children and their families.

D. CONTINUING EDUCATION

1. The director shall provide opportunities for continuing education of staff through attendance at child care workshops or conferences, for paid and non-paid staff

who are left alone with children, or who have supervisory or disciplinary authority over children. The child care staff, excluding foster grandparents, shall obtain 12 clock hours of approved training per center's anniversary year in job related subject areas. At least three of the 12 clock hours of training for directors/director designees shall be in administrative issues. Documentation shall consist of attendance records or certificates received by staff. This is in addition to the required training hours from the Department of Health and Hospitals, pediatric first aid and infant/child/adult CPR. Medication administration training by a Child Care Health Consultant may count toward fulfilling three of the mandated 12 hours of continuing education training. All training shall have prior approval by the Department of Social Services. Original certificates shall be made available upon request.

2. Cooks or drivers who are neither left alone with children, nor have supervisory nor disciplinary authority over children shall complete at least three clock hours of training in job related topics per center's anniversary year.

E. CPR AND FIRST AID

1. A minimum of at least 50 percent of all staff on the premises and accessible to the children at all times shall have documentation of current infant/child/adult certification in CPR. Original cards shall be made available upon request. This training shall be approved by the Department of Social Services prior to acceptance.
2. Centers with multiple buildings or floors, however, shall have at least one currently certified staff in approved infant/child/adult CPR in each building and on each floor of the center.
3. A minimum of at least 50 percent of all staff on the premises and accessible to children shall have documentation of current pediatric first aid certification. Original cards shall be made available upon request. This certification shall be approved by the Department of Social Services prior to acceptance.
4. Centers with multiple buildings or floors, however, shall have at least one currently certified staff in approved pediatric first aid in each building and on each floor of the center.
5. At least one staff in each vehicle (center provided or contract) shall have documentation of current infant/child/adult CPR certification and pediatric first aid certification.
6. At least 50 percent of the supervising staff on the field trip shall have documentation of current infant/child/adult CPR certification and pediatric first aid certification.
7. Non-vehicular excursions shall require at least one staff in attendance and accessible to children at all times with documented current certification in infant/child/adult CPR and pediatric first aid.

§7313. WATER ACTIVITIES

- A. The provider shall obtain written authorization from the parent for the child to participate in any water activity. The statement shall describe all types of water activities provided and the authorization shall be updated at least annually and shall list the child's name, type of water activity, location of water activity, parent's signature and date.

- B. On-site and off-site wading/swimming pool, or other water activities shall require at least two staff or other supervising adults to be trained in infant/child/adult CPR and pediatric first aid. One supervising adult shall be trained in an approved community water safety course. Providers who have wading pools with a depth of less than 2 feet shall not be required to have a staff with community water safety training. If children are taken to off-site water activities, documentation shall be on file at the center that the director has verified that the supervising adult meets the above requirements or the lifeguard on duty is currently certified. The provider shall ensure that appropriate water safety devices are used when children are participating in water activities.

§7315. REQUIRED CHILD/STAFF RATIOS

- A. Child/staff ratios are established to ensure the safety of all children. Only those staff members directly involved in child care and supervision shall be considered in assessing child/staff ratio. Child/staff ratio staff shall be met at all times as the number of children supervised by one staff shall not exceed the ratios as indicated below; however, there shall always be a minimum of two child care staff present during hours of operation when children are present.

Child/Staff	
Ages of Children	Ratio
Infants under 12 months	5:1
One year old	7:1
Two year old	11:1
Three year old	13:1
Four year old	15:1
Five year old	19:1
Six year old and up	23:1

An average of the child/staff ratio may be applied to mixed groups of children ages 2, 3, 4, and 5. Ratios for children under 2 or over 5 years old are excluded from averaging. When a mixed group includes children less than 2 years of age, the age of the youngest child determines the ratio for the group to which the youngest child is assigned. When a mixed group includes children both older and younger than 6 years old and older, the ages of the children less than 6 determine the ratio for the group.

During naptime, required staffing shall be present in the center to satisfy child/staff ratios.

- B. Child/staff ratio plus one additional adult shall be met for all field trips and non-vehicular excursions.
- C. A designated number of children shall relate daily to a designated staff on a regular and consistent basis.
- D. When the nature of a special need or the number of children with special needs warrants added care, the provider shall add sufficient staff as deemed necessary by the bureau to compensate for these needs.

§7317. SUPERVISION

- A. Children shall be under direct supervision at all times including naptime. Children shall never be left alone in any room or outdoors without a staff present. Children, excluding infants, may be grouped together at naptime with one staff supervising the children sleeping. All children sleeping shall be in the sight of the naptime worker.
- B. While on duty with a group of children, child care staff shall devote their entire time in supervision of the children, in meeting the needs of the children, and in participation with them in their activities.
- C. Individuals who do not serve a purpose related to the care of children and/or hinder supervision of the children shall not be present in the center.

§7319. FOOD SERVICE AND NUTRITION

- A. Well-balanced and nourishing meals and snacks shall be provided as specified under the Child Care Food Program of the United States Department of Agriculture (See Appendix A).
- B. Additional servings of nutritious food over and above the required daily minimum shall be made available to children as needed if not contraindicated by special diets.
- C. Meals and snacks shall be served at 2 1/2 to 3-hour intervals.
- D. Current weekly menus for meals and snacks listing specific food items served shall be prominently posted. Menu substitutions shall be recorded on or near the posted menu.
- E. Children's food shall be served on individual plates, napkins, paper towels or in cups, as appropriate.
- F. Providers who do not serve breakfast shall have food available for children arriving in the morning without having eaten this meal.
- G. Food shall not be sold to the children. Soft drink vending machines and other food dispensers for personnel use shall be located outside of the children's play areas.
- H. Infants shall be held while being bottle-fed. An infant or any child who can hold a bottle shall not be placed in a crib, on a mat, cot, etc., with the bottle unless written permission is obtained from the parent.
- I. A bottle shall not be propped at any time.
- J. Daily written reports to include liquid intake, food intake, child's disposition, bowel movements, eating and sleeping patterns shall be given to parents of infants.
- K. Microwave ovens shall not be used for warming infant bottles or infant food.
- L. Developmentally appropriate equipment shall be used at mealtimes, such as feeding tables, highchairs, etc.
- M. Drinking water shall be available indoors and outdoors to all children. Drinking water shall be offered at least once between meals and snacks to all children. Water shall be given to infants only with written instructions from parents.
- N. Children are not allowed to bring food into the center except under the following circumstances.

1. Bottled formula/breast milk for infants shall have labeled bottles and labeled caps/covers with the child's name or initials and refrigerated upon arrival.
2. Baby food shall be in the original unopened container and labeled with the child's name or initials.
3. When a child requires a special diet, a written statement from a medical authority shall be on file.
4. Children with food allergies/intolerance shall have a written statement signed by the parent indicating the specific food allergy/intolerance.
5. When a child requires a modified diet for religious reasons, a written statement to that effect from the child's parent shall be on file.
6. Refreshments for special occasions such as birthday parties and holidays, with prior approval from the director may be served.

§7321. HEALTH SERVICE TO THE CHILD

- A. A provider that gives medication assumes additional responsibility and liability for the safety of the children. Effective January 1, 2005, the staff person(s) administering medication shall be trained in medication administration. The training shall be obtained every two years.
- B. No medication of any type, prescription, non-prescription, special medical procedure shall be administered by center staff unless authorized in writing by the parent. Authorization shall include:
 - child's name;
 - name of the medication;
 - date(s) to be administered;
 - dosage;
 - time to be administered;
 - special instructions, if applicable;
 - side effects;
 - signature of parent and date of signature; and
 - circumstances for administering "as needed" medication.
- C. Medication or medical procedures to be provided on an as needed basis or maintenance prescription shall be updated as changes occur, or at least every three months by the parent.
- D. All medication sent to the center shall be in its original container, shall not have an expired date, and shall be clearly labeled with the child's name to ensure that medication is for individual use only.
- E. The provider shall follow any special directions as indicated on the medication bottle, i.e., before or after meals, with food or milk, refrigerate, etc.

- F. If medication label reads "to consult physician," a written physician authorization with child's name, date, medication name and dosage must be on file in order to administer the medication in addition to the parental authorization.
- G. Medication administration records shall be maintained verifying that the medication was given according to parent's authorization, which includes:
- date;
 - time;
 - dosage administered;
 - signature (not initials) of the staff member who gave the medication; and
 - phone contact (date and time) with the parent prior to giving "as needed" medication.
- H. When parents administer medication to their own children on the child care premises, the following information shall be documented:
- date;
 - child's name;
 - time administered;
 - medication name;
 - dosage administered; and
 - name of person administering medication.
- I. The provider shall not apply topical ointments/sprays/creams (i.e., sunscreen, insect repellent, diaper rash ointment, etc.) without a written one-time authorization signed and dated from the parent, unless changes occur.
- J. Upon arrival at the center, each child shall be observed for possible signs of illness, infections, bruises, injuries, physical condition, etc. When noted, results including an explanation from parent and/or child shall be documented.
- K. Incidents of injuries or accidents shall be documented. Documentation shall include name of child, date and time of incident, location where incident took place, description of how incident occurred, part of body involved, and actions taken. Documentation of all injuries/accidents shall include time of parental notification and signature of person notifying the parent. The parent or designated person shall be notified immediately in the following situations:
- blood not contained in an adhesive strip;
 - head injury;
 - human bite which breaks the skin;
 - any animal bite;
 - an impaled object;
 - broken or dislodged teeth; or
 - any injury requiring professional medical attention.

L. Documentation of illnesses or unusual behavior shall be maintained. Documentation shall include child's name, type/description of illness or unusual behavior, date and time of onset and actions taken, time of parental notification and signature of person notifying the parent. The parent or designated person shall be notified immediately in the following situations:

- allergic reaction;
- skin changes, e.g., rash, spots, swelling, etc.;
- unusual breathing;
- dehydration;
- any temperature reading over 101° oral, 102° rectal, or 100° axillary; or
- any illness requiring professional medical attention.

§7323. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

A. INDOOR SPACE REQUIRED

1. The center shall be used exclusively by the children and center staff during operating hours. Area licensed for use as a child care center shall not be dually licensed. A child care facility, except those located in a church or school, shall be physically separated from any other business or enterprise.
2. A minimum of at least 35 square feet per child of indoor space shall be available. The space shall not include toilet facilities, hallways, lofts, storage or food preparation areas, or offices. Any room counted as play space shall be available for play during play hours. If rooms are used exclusively for dining or sleeping, they cannot be included in the licensed capacity.
3. For indoor space, the number of children using a room shall be based on the 35 square feet per child requirement except for group activities such as film viewing, parties, dining and sleeping.
4. Provisions shall be available indoors for temporarily isolating a child having or suspected of having a communicable disease so he/she can be removed from the other children. Movable partitions are permissible so that the space may be used for play when not needed for isolating an ill child.
5. An indoor area shall be maintained for the purpose of providing privacy for diapering, dressing and other personal care procedures for children beyond the usual diapering age.

B. OUTDOOR SPACE REQUIRED

1. Outdoor play space with a direct exit from the center into the outdoor play yard shall be available. If the exit does not open directly onto the play yard, the outdoor play yard shall be attached to the facility in such a manner to ensure that the children are continuously protected by a fence while going to and/or from the outdoor play yard.
2. The outdoor space shall provide a minimum of 75 square feet for each child in the outdoor play space at any one time. The minimum outdoor play space shall be available for at least one-third of the licensed capacity.

3. The outdoor play space shall be enclosed with a fence or other barrier in such a manner as to protect the children from traffic hazards; to prevent the children from leaving the premises without proper supervision; and to prevent contact with animals or unauthorized persons.
4. Crawlspace and mechanical, electrical, or other hazardous equipment shall be made inaccessible to children.
5. Areas where there are open cisterns, wells, ditches, fish ponds and swimming pools or other bodies of water shall be made inaccessible to children by fencing.

§7325. FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. A working telephone capable of incoming and outgoing calls shall be available at all times and readily available at the center. Coin operated telephones or cellular telephones are not acceptable for this purpose.
- B. When a center has multiple buildings and a telephone is not located in each building where the children are housed, a written plan shall be posted in each building for securing emergency help.
- C. Appropriate emergency numbers such as fire department, police department, and medical facility shall be prominently posted on or near the telephone.
- D. The telephone number for poison control shall be prominently posted on or near the telephone.
- E. The center's physical address shall be posted with the emergency numbers.
- F. All equipment and materials shall be appropriate to the needs and ages of the children enrolled.
- G. All play equipment and equipment necessary for the operation of the center shall be maintained in good repair.
- H. Play equipment of sufficient quantity and variety for indoor and outdoor use encouraging physical play and quiet play/activities which is appropriate to the needs and ages of the children shall be provided.
- I. Low, open shelves, bins, or other open containers shall be within easy reach of the children for the storage of play materials in each play area.
- J. Individual, labeled space shall be available for each child's personal belongings.
- K. Chairs and table space of a suitable size shall be available for each child two years of age or older.
- L. Individual and appropriate sleeping arrangements shall be provided for each child. Each child shall be provided with a cot, mat, or crib (baby bed) of appropriate size, height, and material, sufficient to ensure his/her health and safety. Each infant shall have a crib separated from all other cribs (non-stackable). Playpens shall not be substituted for cribs.
- M. Mats may be used only if the area used for napping is carpeted or if the center is centrally heated and cooled. If mats are used, they shall be of adequate size and material to provide for the health and safety of the child.

- N. Each child's sleeping accommodations shall be assigned to him/her on a permanent basis and labeled.
- O. Sheets for covering the cot or mat shall be provided by either the provider or the parent, unless the cots or mats are covered with vinyl or another washable surface.
- P. Sheets and coverings shall be changed immediately when soiled or wet.
- Q. A labeled sheet or blanket shall be provided by either the provider or the parent for covering the child.
- R. Cribs, cots, or mats shall be spaced at least 18 inches apart.
- S. Cribs shall have spaces between crib slats of no more than 2 3/8 inches.
- T. Infant bed railings shall be in the up and locked position at all times when the child is in the bed.
- U. Trampolines are prohibited.
- V. Infant walkers are prohibited.
- W. Toy chests with attached lids are prohibited.

§7327. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- A. Prescription and over-the-counter medications, poisons, cleaning supplies, harmful chemicals, equipment, tools and any substance with a warning label stating it is harmful or that it should be kept out of the reach of children, shall be locked away from and inaccessible to children. Whether a cabinet or an entire room, the storage area shall be locked.
- B. Refrigerated medication shall be stored in a secure container to prevent access by children and avoid contamination of food.
- C. Construction, remodeling, or alterations of structures shall be done in such a manner as to prevent hazards or unsafe conditions (fumes, dust, safety hazards).
- D. Secure railings shall be provided for flights of more than three steps and for porches more than 3 feet from the ground.
- E. Gates shall be provided at the head or foot of each flight of stairs to which children have access.
- F. Accordion gates are prohibited unless there is documentation on file that the gate meets requirements as approved by the Office of Public Health, Sanitarian Services.
- G. Unused electrical outlets shall be protected by a safety plug cover.
- H. Strings and cords (such as those found on window coverings) shall not be within the reach of children.
- I. First aid supplies shall be kept on-site and easily accessible to employees, but not within the reach of children.
- J. All areas of the center used by the children, including sleep areas, shall be properly heated, cooled, and ventilated.
- K. Areas used by the children shall be lighted in such a way as to allow visual supervision of the children at all times.

- L. The center and yard shall be clean and free from hazards.
- M. The provider shall prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco, and the use or possession of illegal substances or unauthorized potentially toxic substances, fireworks, firearms, pellet or BB guns (loaded or unloaded) on the child care premises. This notice shall be posted.
- N. The provider shall post "The Safety Box" newsletter issued by the Office of the Attorney General as required by Chapter 55 of Title 46 of the R.S. 46:2701-2711.
- O. The entire center shall be checked after the last child departs to ensure that no child is left unattended at the center. Documentation shall include date, time, and signature of staff conducting the visual check.

§7328. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND EVACUATION PLANNING

- A. The director, in consultation with appropriate state or local authorities, shall establish and follow a written multi-hazard emergency and evacuation plan to protect children in the event of an emergency. The plan shall include shelter in place, lock down situations, and evacuations with regard to natural disasters, man-made disasters, and attacks while children are in care. The plan shall be appropriate for the area in which the center is located and address any potential disaster due to that particular location. At a minimum, the plan shall be reviewed annually by the director for accuracy and updated as changes occur. Documentation of review by the director shall consist of the director's signature and date. The plan shall be reviewed with all staff at least twice per calendar year. Documentation evidencing that the plan has been reviewed with all staff shall include staff signatures and date reviewed. The plan shall also include information regarding handling children with special needs enrolled in the child care center as well as instructions for handling infants through children age two. The plan shall specifically address the evacuation and transportation of children in wheelchairs. The plan shall include but shall not be limited to a system to account for all children whether sheltering in place, locking down, or evacuating to a pre-determined relocation site. The plan shall include a system and back up system to notify the parents or authorized third party release caretakers of children in attendance at the childcare center of the emergency situation. The plan shall include a system to reunify children and parents following an emergency. Parents shall be informed of the details of this emergency plan at the time of enrollment.
- B. The multi-hazard emergency and evacuation plan shall include lock down procedures for situations that may result in harm to persons inside the child care center, including but not limited to a shooting, hostage incident, intruder, trespassing, disturbance, or any situation deemed harmful at the discretion of the director or public safety personnel. The director shall announce the "lock down" over the public address system or other designated system. The alert may be made using a pre-selected code word. In a "lock down" situation, all children shall be kept in classrooms or other designated safe locations that are away from the danger. Staff members shall account for children and ensure that no one leaves the classroom/safe area. Staff shall secure center entrances and ensure that no unauthorized individual leaves or enters the center.
 - Staff and children shall remain in the classroom/safe area, locking the classroom door, turning off the lights, and covering the windows. Staff shall encourage

children to get under tables, behind cabinets, etc., and, if possible, engage in quiet story time activities with the children until “all clear” is announced.

- Parent or authorized representative shall be notified of a “lock down” situation at the center no later than at the time of the child’s release on the date of the occurrence.
- C. An individualized emergency plan (including medical contact information and additional supplies/equipment needed) shall be in place for each child with special needs.
- D. If evacuation of the center is necessary, provider shall have an evacuation pack and all staff shall know the location of the pack. The contents shall be replenished as needed. At a minimum, the pack shall contain the following:
- list of area emergency phone numbers;
 - list of emergency contact information and emergency medical authorization for all children enrolled;
 - written authorization signed and dated by the parent noting the first and last names of individuals to whom the child may be released other than the parent(s);
 - first aid kit;
 - hand sanitizer;
 - wet wipes;
 - tissue;
 - diapers for children enrolled who are not yet potty trained;
 - plastic bags;
 - battery powered flashlight;
 - battery powered radio;
 - batteries;
 - food for all ages of children enrolled, including infant food and formula;
 - disposable cups; and
 - bottled water.
- E. Provider shall maintain a copy of all records, documents, and computer files necessary for the continued operation of the center following an emergency in a portable file and/or offsite location.
- F. If the center is located within a ten-mile radius of a nuclear power plant or research center, the center shall also have plans for nuclear evacuation.
- G. Fire drills shall be conducted at least once per month. Drills shall be conducted at various times of the day to include all children (children attending on certain days only and/or at certain times only) and shall be documented. Documentation shall include:
- date and time of drill;
 - number of children present;

- amount of time to evacuate the center;
- problems noted during drill and corrections noted; and
- signatures (not initials) of all staff present.

NOTE: The Licensing Section recommends that at least one fire drill every six months be held at rest time.

H. Tornado drills shall be conducted at least once per month in the months of March, April, May, and June. Drills shall be conducted at various times of the day to include all children (children attending on certain days only and/or at certain times only) and shall be documented. Documentation shall include:

- date and time of drill;
- number of children present;
- problems noted during drill and corrections noted; and
- signatures (not initials) of all staff present.

NOTE: For additional information contact the Office of Emergency Preparedness (Civil Defense) in your area.

§7329. NON-VEHICULAR EXCURSIONS

- A. Written parental authorization shall be obtained for all non-vehicular excursions. Authorization shall include the name of child, type and location of activity, date and signature of parent, and shall be updated at least annually.
- B. The provider shall maintain a record of all non-vehicular excursions activities to include date, time, list of children, staff, and other adults, and type of activity.

§7331. GENERAL TRANSPORTATION (CONTRACT, CENTER-PROVIDED, PARENT PROVIDED)

Providers who transport or arrange transportation of children assume additional responsibility and liability for the safety of the children. Whether transportation is provided on a daily basis or for field trips only, these general regulations shall apply.

- A. Transportation arrangements shall conform to state laws, including seat belts and child restraints.
- B. Only one child shall be restrained in a single safety belt.

NOTE: For additional information regarding state laws, contact Office of Public Safety.

- C. The driver or attendant shall not leave the children unattended in the vehicle at any time.
- D. Each child shall safely board or leave the vehicle from the curb side of the street and/or shall be escorted across the street.
- E. The vehicle shall be maintained in good repair.

- F. The use of tobacco in any form, use of alcohol and possession of illegal substances or unauthorized potentially toxic substances, firearms, pellet or BB guns (loaded or unloaded) in any vehicle while transporting children is prohibited.
- G. The number of persons in a vehicle used to transport children shall not exceed the manufacturer's recommended capacity.
- H. The provider shall maintain a copy of a valid appropriate Louisiana driver's license for all individuals who drive vehicles (staff, contracted persons, parents) used to transport children.
- I. The provider shall maintain in force at all times current commercial liability insurance for the operation of center vehicles to ensure medical coverage for children in the event of accident or injury. This policy shall extend coverage to any staff member who provides transportation for any child in the course and scope of his/her employment. The provider is responsible for payment of medical expenses of a child injured while in the provider's care. Documentation shall consist of the insurance policy or current binder that includes the name of the child care facility, the name of the insurance company, policy number, period of coverage and explanation of the coverage. If transportation is provided by parents for field trips or transportation is provided by contract, whether daily or field trip, a copy of the current liability insurance shall be maintained on file.
- J. The vehicle shall have evidence of a current safety inspection. In lieu of a visual inspection of a contracted vehicle, a signed statement by the agency representative verifying the expiration date of the current inspection is acceptable.
- K. There shall be first aid supplies in each provider or contracted vehicle. First aid supplies (at least one per trip) shall be available for each field trip when parents provide transportation. In lieu of a visual inspection of a contracted vehicle, a signed statement by the agency representative verifying this information is acceptable.
- L. There shall be information in each vehicle identifying the name of the director and the name, telephone number, and address of the center for emergency situations. In lieu of a visual inspection of a contracted vehicle, a signed statement by the agency representative verifying this information is acceptable.
- M. In accordance with R.S. 32:295.3.1, a provider may have a child safety alarm installed in any vehicle that has a seating capacity of six or more passengers in addition to the driver. This vehicle has to be owned or operated by the day care center, its owner, operator, or employees and used to transport children to or from the day care center. The child safety alarm is an ignition-based alarm system that voice prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for children before exiting the vehicle and shall be installed by a person or business that is approved by the manufacturer of the child safety alarm. An owner or director of a day care center who elects to have a child safety alarm installed in a vehicle owned or operated by the day care center shall ensure that the child safety alarm is properly maintained and in good working order each time the vehicle is used for transporting children to or from a day care center.

§7333. FIELD TRIPS (CONTRACT, CENTER-PROVIDED, PARENT PROVIDED)

All requirements for general transportation, §7331, also apply to field trips. In addition, the following standards shall apply when transportation is provided/arranged for field trips.

- A. The provider shall maintain a signed parental authorization for each field trip. Field trip authorization shall include the type of service (contract vehicle, center owned vehicle, parent vehicle) used to transport children, event, location, child's name, date and time of event, parent's signature and date.
- B. At least two staff, one of whom may be the driver, shall be in each vehicle unless the vehicle has a communication device and child/staff ratio is met in the vehicle.
- C. The provider shall maintain a record of all field trips taken, to include date and destination, list of passengers (children, parents, staff) (going and returning) and method of transportation.
- D. If transportation is provided by parents, a planned route shall be provided to each driver and a copy maintained in the center.
- E. Children shall be supervised during boarding and exiting vehicles by an adult who remains on the outside of the vehicle.
- F. The driver or staff person shall check the vehicle and account for each child upon arrival and departure at each destination to ensure no child is left on the vehicle or at any destination. Documentation shall include the signature of the person conducting the check and the time the vehicle is checked for each loading and unloading of children.

§7335. DAILY TRANSPORTATION (CONTRACT OR CENTER-PROVIDED)

All requirements in general transportation, §7331, also apply for daily transportation. In addition, the following standards all apply when daily transportation is provided/arranged.

- A. A staff person shall be present when the child is delivered to the center.
- B. The driver plus one staff are required at all times in each vehicle when transporting any child under five years of age.
- C. When transporting children five years of age and older, the driver plus one staff person shall be in each contracted or center provided vehicle unless the vehicle has a communication device which allows staff to contact emergency personnel, and the child/staff ratio is met in the vehicle.
- D. Each driver or attendant shall be provided with a current master transportation list including each child's name, pick up and drop off locations and authorized persons to whom the child may be released. Documentation shall be maintained on file at the center whether provided by center or contract.
- E. The driver or attendant shall maintain an attendance record for each trip. The record shall include the driver's name, the date, name of all passengers (children and adults) in the vehicle, the name of the person to whom the child was released and the time of

release. Documentation shall be maintained on file at the center whether provided by center or contract.

- F. The staff shall check the vehicle at the completion of each trip to ensure that no child is left on the vehicle. Documentation shall include the signature of the person conducting the check and the time the vehicle is checked. Documentation shall be maintained on file at the center whether provided by center or contract.

§7337. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The provider shall maintain a contract which is signed by the provider and a representative of the transportation agency outlining circumstances under which transportation will be provided. This written contract shall be dated, time limited and shall include verbiage in §7331.

§7339. CARE FOR CHILDREN DURING NIGHTTIME HOURS

All minimum standards for child care centers apply to providers who care for children after 9 p.m. and in which no individual child remains for more than 24 hours in one continuous stay. In addition, the following standards shall apply:

- A. There shall be a designated "staff-in-charge" employee who is at least 21 years of age.
- B. Adequate staff shall be present in the center to meet the child/staff ratios as indicated in §7315; however, there shall always be a minimum of at least two staff present.
- C. Meals shall be served to children who are in the center at the ordinary meal times.
- D. Each child shall have a separate, age appropriate bed or cot with mat or mattress covered by a sheet for each child, as well as a covering for each child (bunk beds are not allowed).
- E. There shall be a posted schedule of activities.
- F. Evening quiet time activity such as story time, games, and reading shall be provided to each child arriving before bedtime.
- G. Physical restraints shall not be used to confine children to bed.
- H. The center's entrance and drop off zones shall be well-lighted during hours of operation.

§7350. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION AS SPECIFIED UNDER R.S. 46:1426

A. PURPOSE; AUTHORITY

It is the intent of the Legislature to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children who are in out-of-home day care centers. Toward that end, R.S. 46:1426 allows parents or guardians of children enrolled in, or who have made application to be enrolled in, a day care center to obtain certain information pertaining to that particular day care center in addition to information that may be obtained under the Public Records Act subject to the limitations provided by R.S. 46:56(F)(4)(c).

B. PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING INFORMATION

1. Requests for information may be made by a parent or guardian of a child either by telephone or in writing.
2. Upon receipt of a request that does not give assurance that the person making the request is a parent or guardian of a child that is currently attending or that has completed a current application to attend the day care center in question, the Bureau of Licensing shall furnish the parent or guardian a certification form that must be completed and signed that certifies that their child is currently attending or that a current application has been made for the child to attend the particular day care center.
3. Upon receiving the needed information, or the certification form, the Bureau of Licensing shall initiate a review of the records of that particular day care center.
4. The Bureau of Licensing shall provide or make available all information, if any, that is requested, subject to limitations as provided by law.
5. Failure of a parent or guardian to sign a certification form or provide compelling information that indicates their child is either currently attending or has made application to attend said day care center will result in the request being handled as a request under the Public Records Act.

C. INFORMATION THAT MAY BE RELEASED

1. Information that may be released under R.S. 46:1426 is as follows:
 - a. each valid finding of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation occurring at the center, subject to the limitations provided by R.S. 46:56(F)(4)(c);
 - b. whether or not the day care center employs any person who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any of the crimes provided in R.S. 15:587.1;
 - c. any violations of standards, rules, or regulations applicable to such day care center; and
 - d. any waivers of minimum standards authorized for such day care center.
2. No information may be released that contains the name, or any other identifying information, of any child involved in any situation concerning the day care center.
3. The identity of any possible perpetrator or of the party reporting any suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation shall not be disclosed except as required by law.
4. If there is no information in the files other than information covered under the Public Records Act, the parent or guardian shall be so notified and informed of the procedure for obtaining that information.

D. COSTS

As is required for obtaining copies of records under the Public Records Act, parents or guardians wanting copies of records under R.S. 46:1426 shall be informed of the costs involved and pay for copies of said records.

APPENDIX A

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM of the United States Department of Agriculture

The Child Care Food Program of the United States Department of Agriculture is administered locally by state and regional agencies. Interested parties shall apply through the appropriate administering agency in their area. For further information and appropriate referral contact: Child Care and Summer Programs Division, Food and Nutrition Service, United State Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 416, Alexandria, VA 22302, or your State Office.

A. Each meal served shall contain, as a minimum, the indicated food components:

1. A BREAKFAST shall contain:
 - a. A serving of fluid milk as a beverage or on cereal, or used in part for each purpose;
 - b. A serving of vegetable(s) or fruit(s) or full-strength vegetable or fruit juice, or an equivalent quantity of any combination of these foods;
 - c. A serving of whole-grain or enriched bread; or an equivalent serving of cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., made with whole-grain or enriched meal or flour; or a serving of whole-grain or enriched or fortified cereal; or a serving of cooked whole-grain or enriched pasta or noodle products such as macaroni; or cereal grains such as rice, bulgur, or corn grits; or an equivalent quantity of any combination of these foods.
2. Both LUNCH and SUPPER shall contain:
 - a. A serving of fluid milk as a beverage;
 - b. A serving of lean meat, poultry or fish; or cheese; or an egg; or cooked dry beans or peas; or peanut butter; or an equivalent quantity of any combination of these foods. These foods shall be served in a main dish, or in a main dish and one other menu item, to meet this requirement. Cooked dry beans or dry peas may be used as the meat alternate or as part of the vegetable/fruit component but not as both food components in the same meal;

Nuts and seeds and their butters listed in program guidance are nutritionally comparable to meat or other meat alternates based on available nutritional data. Acorns, chestnuts, and coconuts shall **not** be used as a meat alternate due to their low protein content. Nut or seed meals or flours may be used as an ingredient in a bread/bread alternate, but shall **not** be use as meat alternate. As noted, nuts or

seeds may be used to meet no more than one-half of the meat/meat alternate requirements. Therefore, nuts or seeds shall be combined with another meat/meat alternate to fulfill the requirement;

- c. A serving of two or more vegetables or fruits, or a combination of both. Full-strength vegetable or fruit juice may be counted to meet not more than one-half of this requirement;
 - d. A serving of whole-grain or enriched bread; or an equivalent serving of cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., made with whole-grain or enriched meal or flour; or a serving of whole-grain or enriched pasta or noodle products such as macaroni; or cereal grains such as rice, bulgur, or corn grits; or an equivalent quantity of any combination of these foods.
2. Supplemental food (snacks) *shall* be served between other meal types and contain two of the following four components;
- a. A serving of fluid milk as a beverage, or on cereal, or used in part for each purpose;
 - b. A serving of meat or meat alternate. Nuts and seeds and their butters listed in program guidance are nutritionally comparable to meat or other meat alternates based on available nutritional data. Acorns, chestnuts, and coconuts are excluded and shall **not** be used as a meat alternate due to their low protein content. Nut or seed meals or flours shall **not** be use as meat alternate.
 - c. A serving of vegetable(s) or fruit(s) or full-strength vegetable or fruit juice, or an equivalent quantity of any combination of these foods. Juice may not be served when milk is served as the only other component;
 - d. A serving of whole-grain or enriched bread; or an equivalent serving of cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., made with whole-grain or enriched meal or flour; or a serving of cooked whole-grain or enriched pasta or noodle products such as macaroni; or cereal grains such as rice, bulgur, or corn grits; or an equivalent quantity of any combination of these foods.

B. Infant meal pattern:

Foods within the infant meal pattern shall be of texture and consistency appropriate for the particular age group being served. The total amount of food authorized in the meal patterns set forth below shall be provided to the infant but may be served during a span of time consistent with the infant's eating habits, on a gradual basis with the intent of ensuring their nutritional well-being and in accordance with the parent's desires. The infant meal shall contain, at a minimum, each of the following components in the amounts indicated for the appropriate age group.

1. Birth through 3 months:
 - a. Breakfast – 4-6 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula;
 - b. Lunch or Supper – 4-6 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula;
 - c. Supplemental food – 4-6 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula.
2. 4 months through 7 months:
 - a. Breakfast – 4-8 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula and 0-3 tablespoons of iron fortified dry infant cereal (optional);
 - b. Lunch or Supper – 4-8 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula and 0-3 tablespoons of iron fortified dry infant cereal (optional); and 0-3 tablespoons of fruit or vegetable of appropriate consistency or a combination of both (optional);
 - c. Supplementary food – 4-6 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula.
3. 8 months through 11 months:
 - a. Breakfast – 6-8 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula, or 6-8 ounces of whole fluid milk; 2-4 tablespoons of iron-fortified dry infant cereal; and 1-4 tablespoons of fruit or vegetable of appropriate consistency or a combination of both;
 - b. Lunch or Supper – 6-8 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula, or 6-8 ounces of whole fluid milk; 2-4 tablespoons of iron fortified dry infant cereal and/or 1-4 tablespoons of meat, fish, poultry, egg yolk, or cooked dry beans or peas, or ½-2 ounces (weight) of cheese or 1-4 ounces (weight/volume) of cottage cheese of appropriate consistency; and 1-4 tablespoons of fruit or vegetable of appropriate consistency or a combination of both; and,
 - c. Supplementary food – 2-4 fluid ounces of iron-fortified infant formula, whole fluid milk or full strength fruit juice, 0- ½ slice of crusty bread (optional) or 0-2 cracker-type products (optional) made from whole grain or enriched meal or flour that are suitable for an infant for use as a finger food.

C. Meal patterns for children age 1 through 12:

When children over age one participate, the total amount of food authorized in the meal patterns set forth in the following charts shall be provided:

MINIMUM AMOUNT OF FOOD COMPONENTS TO BE SERVED AS BREAKFAST

	FOOD COMPONENTS	AGES 1 AND 2	AGES 3 TO 5	AGES 6 TO 12
MILK	Milk, Fluid	½ cup	¾ cup	1 cup
VEGETABLES AND FRUIT	Vegetable(s) and/or fruit(s), or	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup
	Full-strength vegetable or fruit juice or an equivalent quantity of any combination of vegetable(s), fruit(s) and juice.	¼ cup	½ cup	½ cup
BREAD AND BREAD ALTERNATES*	Bread, or	½ slice	½ slice	1 slice
	Cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., or	½ serving	½ serving	1 serving
	Cold dry cereal, or	¼ cup or ⅓ ounce	⅓ cup or ½ ounce	¾ cup or 1 ounce
	Cooked cereal, or	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup
	Cooked pasta or noodle products, or	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup
	Cooked cereal grains or an equivalent quantity of any combination of bread/bread alternates	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup

* Bread, pasta or noodle products, and cereal grains shall be whole-grain or enriched; cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., shall be made with whole-grain or enriched meal or flour.

MINIMUM AMOUNT OF FOOD COMPONENTS TO BE SERVED AS LUNCH OR SUPPER

	FOOD COMPONENTS	AGES 1 AND 2	AGES 3 TO 5	AGES 6 TO 12
MILK	Milk, Fluid	½ cup	¾ cup	1 cup
VEGETABLES AND FRUIT*	Vegetable(s) and/or fruit(s)	¼ cup total	½ cup total	¾ cup total
BREAD AND BREAD ALTERNATES**	Bread	½ slice	½ slice	1 slice
	Cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., or	½ serving	½ serving	1 serving
	Cooked pasta or noodle products, or	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup
	Cooked cereal grains or an equivalent quantity of any combination of bread/bread alternates.	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup
MEAT AND MEAT ALTERNATES***	Lean meat or poultry or fish, or	1 ounce	1 ½ ounces	2 ounces
	Cheese, or	1 ounce	1 ½ ounces	2 ounces
	Eggs, or	1 egg	1 egg	1 egg
	Cooked dry beans or peas, or	¼ cup	⅔ cup	½ cup
	Peanut butter or soynut butter or other nut or seed butters, or	2 tbsp.	3 tbsp.	4 tbsp.
	Peanuts or nuts and/or seeds. or	½ ounce = 50%	¾ ounce = 50%	1 ounce = 50%
	An equivalent quantity of any combination of the above meat/meat alternate.			

* Serve 2 or more kinds of vegetable(s) and/or fruit(s). Full-strength vegetable or fruit juice may be counted to meet not more than ½ of this requirement.

** Bread, pasta or noodle products, and cereal grains shall be whole-grain or enriched; cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., shall be made with whole grain or enriched meal or flour.

*** This portion can meet only ½ of the total serving of the meat/meat alternate requirements for lunch or supper. Nuts or seeds shall be combined with another meat/meat alternate to fulfill the requirement. For determining combinations, 1 ounce of nuts or seeds are equal to 1 ounce of cooked lean meat, poultry, or fish.

Caution – Children under 6 are at the highest risk of choking. USDA recommends that any nuts and/or seeds to be served to them in a prepared food and be ground or finely chopped.

MINIMUM AMOUNT OF COMPONENTS TO BE SERVED AS SUPPLEMENTAL (SNACK) FOOD

Select two of the following four but juice shall not be served with milk only.

	FOOD COMPONENTS	AGES 1 AND 2	AGES 3 TO 5	AGES 6 TO 12
MILK	Milk, Fluid	½ cup	½ cup	1 cup
VEGETABLES AND FRUIT	Vegetable(s) and/or fruit(s) (two or more), or	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup
	Full-strength vegetable or fruit juice or an equivalent quantity of any combination of vegetable(s), fruit(s) and juice.	½ cup	½ cup	¾ cup
BREAD AND BREAD ALTERNATES*	Bread	½ slice	½ slice	1 slice
	Cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., or	½ serving	½ serving	1 serving
	Cold dry cereal, or	¼ cup or ⅓ ounce	⅓ cup or ½ ounce	¾ cup or 1 ounce
	Cooked cereal, or	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup
	Cooked pasta or noodle product, or	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup
	Cooked cereal grains or an equivalent quantity of any combination of bread/bread alternates.	¼ cup	¼ cup	½ cup
MEAT AND MEAT ALTERNATES**	Lean meat or poultry or fish, or	½ ounce	½ ounce	1 ounce
	Cheese, or	½ ounce	½ ounce	1 ounce
	Eggs, or	½ egg	½ egg	1 egg
	Cooked dry beans or peas, or	⅓ cup	⅓ cup	¼ cup
	Peanut butter or soynut butter or other nut or seed butters, or	1 tbsp.	1 tbsp.	2 tbsp.
	Peanuts or nuts and/or seeds. or	½ ounce	½ ounce	1 ounce
	Yogurt, plain, or sweetened and flavored, or	2 ounces or ¼ cup	2 ounces or ¼ cup	4 ounces or ½ cup
	An equivalent quantity of any combination of meat/meat alternate			

* Bread, pasta or noodle products, and cereal grains shall be whole-grain or enriched; cornbread, biscuits, rolls, muffins, etc., shall be made with whole-grain or enriched meal or flour.

** Yogurt may be used as a meat/meat alternative in the SNACK ONLY.